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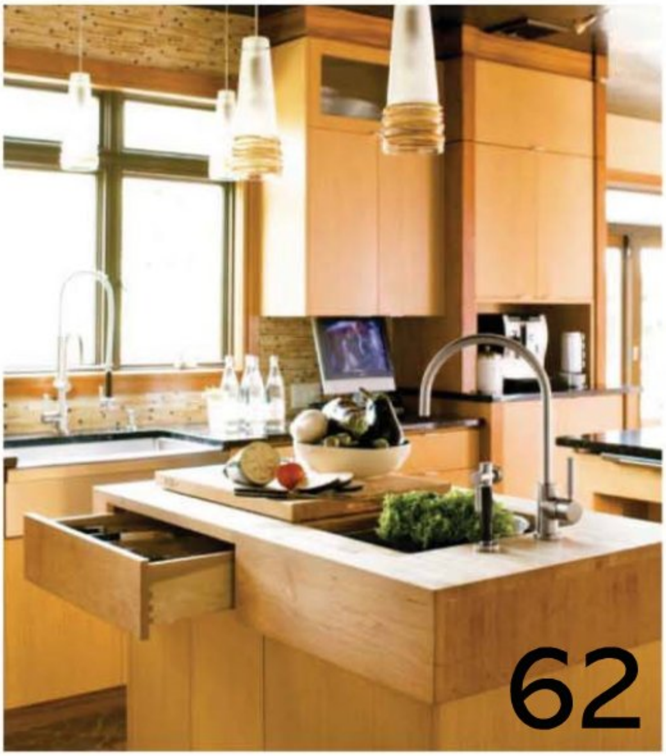
VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 3

KITCHENS & BATHS™



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JEFF MCNAMARA

DESIGNER
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47 Pages of Kitchens You'll Love **PAGES 16, 30–85, 100**

Great Style for Less **PAGE 42**

New Ideas for Bath Storage **PAGE 86**

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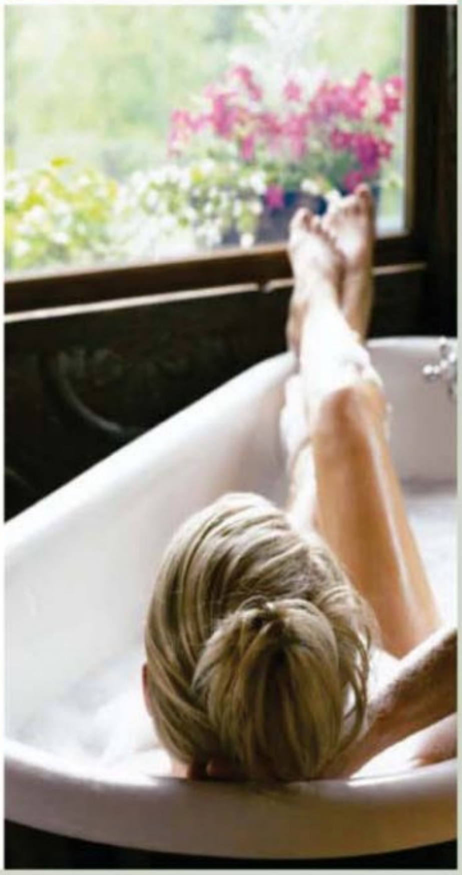

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Partners

If you're reading this magazine, there is a change in your future.

No, your *Kitchens & Baths* team is not moonlighting writing pithy predictions for fortune cookies. We know you look to us for sound planning advice and super inspiration at the outset of creating your dream space. Based on reader feedback, we develop stories on the topics and subjects that interest you most. From practical shopping guides on materials, appliances and bath fixtures to photo-packed features that take you through a variety of idea-filled baths and kitchens, we work hard to keep you up to date on trends and advances in the field.

Whenever we hear from you—regardless of whether it's a compliment or a complaint—you can be assured your suggestions and comments are taken seriously. Especially in these days when we're all looking to make the wisest possible investment decisions, *Kitchens & Baths* strives to publish stories that will stimulate your creativity and elevate your comfort level—without busting the budget.

Leslie

Leslie Plummer Clagett
Editor

PHOTOGRAPH: TOP, JOE POLILLIO HAIR AND MAKEUP: BATA

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Our Website picks up where the pages leave off with the latest ideas in decorating, remodeling and entertaining. For even more tips on how to design, build, or shop your way to domestic bliss, visit *pointclickhome.com*—it's the ultimate resource for all things home.

MIDAS TOUCH
Splashes of gold and crystal take a crisp white bathroom from ordinary to ornate.

THE LUXURY BATHROOM
From tiny powder rooms to wide-open master baths, visit *pointclickhome.com/luxurybathroom* for ideas on how to spice up an intimate room.

DELUXE KITCHEN DECOR
Check out *pointclickhome.com/kitchendecor* for a roundup of innovative gadgets and chic appliances, from fridges to faucets.

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Redecorating your kitchen or bath? Search our gallery of attractive interiors at *pointclickhome.com/roomfinder* by room or style for delicious design ideas.

GIVEAWAYS
Enter at *pointclickhome.com/sweepstakes* to win stylish prizes for your home.

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The Goods

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY FOR KITCHENS AND BATHS

WRITTEN BY PETER WALSH

CLEANUP

Ultra modern and super easy to clean, the enameled steel Ladoplan shower pan slopes gently toward the integrated drain cover, creating a graceful look. The flush-with-the-floor pan is excellent for barrier-free environments. Just lift up the oblong panel at the rear of the shower for access to the drain for cleaning or servicing. $1,267. 317-805-4821; *kaldewei.com*.

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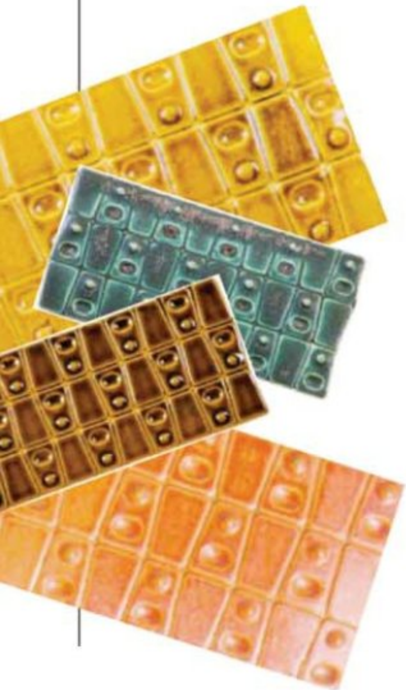
SWINGTIME

Match your kitchen faucets to your appliances for a sleek, modern look. The Talis deck-mounted pot filler, essential for any serious cook, now comes in either traditional chrome or Steel Optik, a brushed-metal finish that complements stainless steel appliances. From $632. 800-334-0455; *hansgrohe-usa.com.*

ONHIGH

What looks like a stylish light fixture over the stovetop is actually the Grace vent hood. Featuring the super-compact yet efficient Evolution filter, it removes cooking smoke and odors while shedding light on your culinary handiwork. Use the remote control to activate the vent or the light from a distance or brush a finger across the touch-sensor on the hood. From $2,450. *elica.com.*



PATTERNPLAY

Computer-aided design executed by hand gives the Dom series an unusual futuristic Arts and Crafts style. Available in 16 colors including (from top) Speckled, Raku, Amber and Hell-fire. 3×6 inches. $50 per square foot. 212-505-0009; *nemotile.com.*

ANOTHERROUND

An extra prep sink is a welcome addition to any kitchen island or bar area. Specially designed to hold up to three bottles of wine on ice, the Cordial sink is made of cast iron with an enamel finish and is available in 22 colors. From $486. 800-456-4537; *kohler.com.*

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UPCLOSE

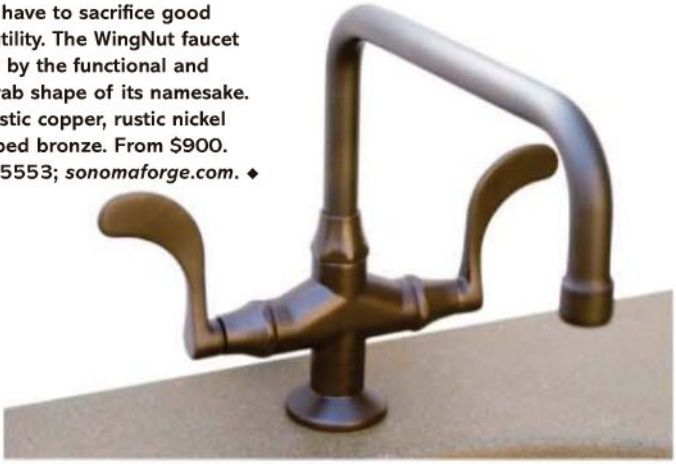
Bring hotel chic to your bathroom with these sleek freestanding mirrors. They come round or rectangular, in either chrome or brushed nickel, both with 3X magnification. $89. 800-311-0708; *shopmarriot.com*.

COOLTREAT

Gone are the days of choosing between a fridge with the convenience of an in-door water and ice dispenser and having an armoire-style configuration. Jenn-Air's model, which combines these features, has a filter so your ice and water taste clean and pure. From $2,800. 800-536-6247; *jennair.com*.

HANDLEIT

You don't have to sacrifice good taste for utility. The WingNut faucet is inspired by the functional and easy-to-grab shape of its namesake. Choose rustic copper, rustic nickel or oil-rubbed bronze. From $900. 800-330-5553; *sonomaforge.com*. ◆



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Relaxed Formality

Though its roots are formal, this easy-going kitchen throws prim to the wind

WRITTEN BY JUDI KETTELER

For this remodel, Huntington, New York–based kitchen designer Susan Serra, CKD, set out to create a warm and gracious kitchen that would be well suited to a traditional home on Long Island's north shore.

Q: What was on the wish list for this project?

A: Mostly, the homeowner wanted some formality, but a relaxed formality. She loved crisp, tailored white cabinetry, but also wanted to add in some texture, which we did with the countertops: A golden travertine by the sink and lava stone, with a crackled finish, on the island.

Q: How does this kitchen blend with the rest of the house?

A: We kept the original terra-cotta flooring since it works well with the look she was after. The rest of house has a more formal feel, so I designed a substantial molding for above the cabinets. The upper wall section of the range hood matches the overall architecture of the room.

DESIGNER SUSAN SERRA

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY CALARCO

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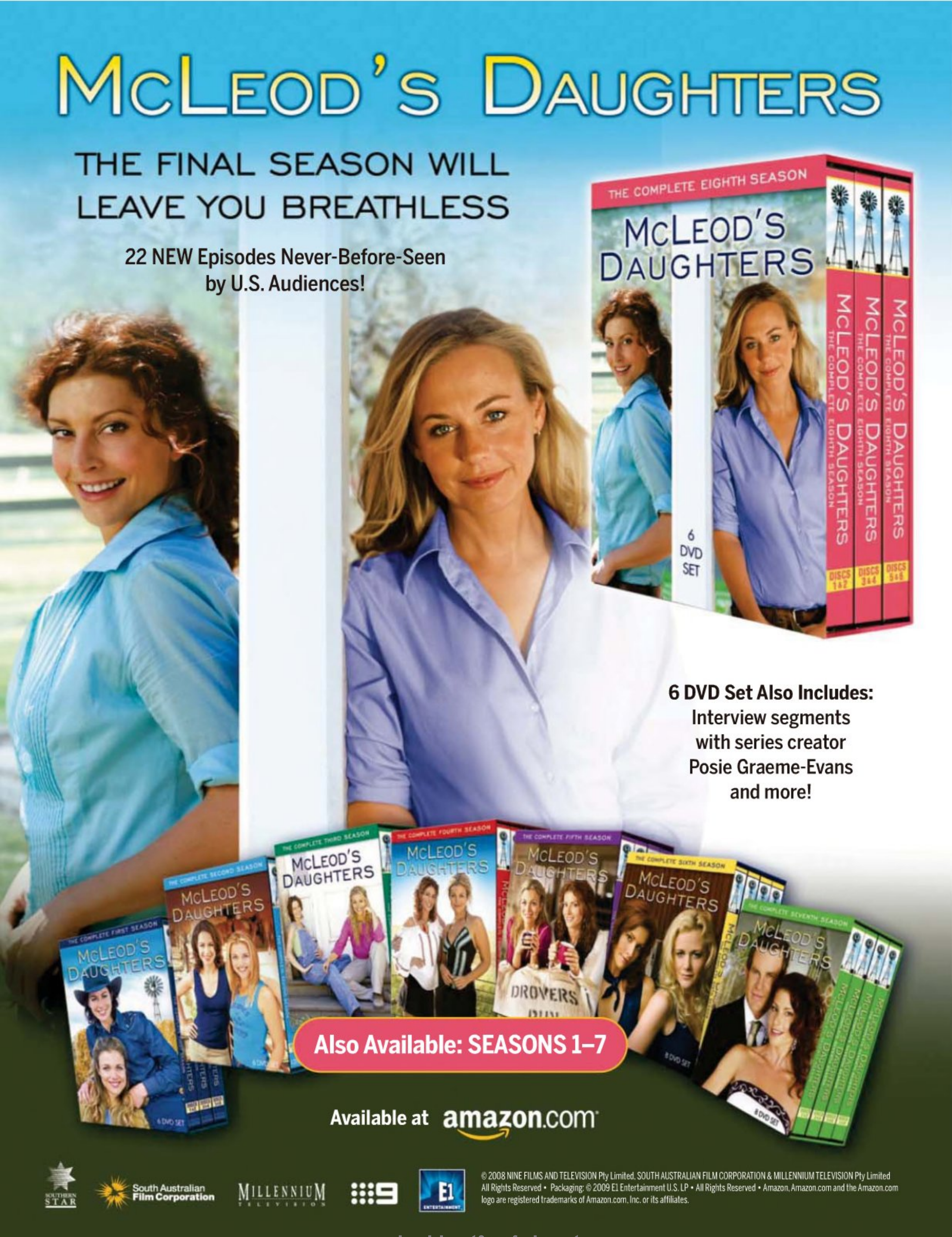

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"I made a conscious decision to avoid the more common enamel farm sink and keep the sink simple and functional."

—DESIGNER SUSAN SERRA

Q: The kitchen has a lot of personality, despite the formality. How did you bring that into the space?

A: The homeowner wanted to be able to include a number of antiques from her collection. We actually designed the space around the antique hutch, because she definitely wanted to use this piece. We also used pieces of her pottery collection all around the room—putting the more fragile pieces higher up so that they were out of danger. I think people should be surrounded by the things they love, no matter in what room.

Q: Why did you go with stainless steel for the farm sink?

A: All of the appliances are stainless steel; we wanted the sink to match. Also, I made a conscious decision to avoid the more common enamel farm sink and keep the sink simple and functional.

Q: Tell me about the striking mural on the backsplash.

A: The homeowner loved that it looks like a painting; we chose each color to customize the design. It's two zebras in a field. It evokes a British Colonial feel, which she really likes. ◆

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY CALARCO

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Earth-Friendly Ideas

WRITTEN BY COURTNAY WALSH

NEXTLIFE

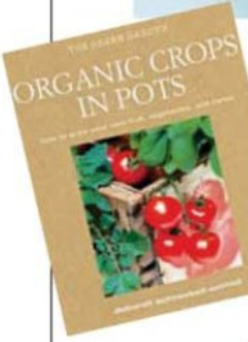
Recycled rubber tires, handcrafted to look like a Near-East leather pot, make the Tade rubber soap dish an environmental and aesthetic hit. $18. *conranusa.com*; 866-755-9079.

WASTEAWAY

Most plastic trash bags take centuries to decompose. Not into preserving your garbage for posterity? Try Perf's Go Green biodegradable plastic bags, which are said to break down into water, carbon dioxide and biomass within two years. Look for food storage and grocery bags in early 2009. *perfgogreen.com*.

RECYCLING TIME

A soup-can clock in the kitchen is a whimsical and functional way to reuse tin cans. Clock-Chef/Soup Can, $65; *pylones-usa.com*.



GETGROWING

An amazing range of produce, from salad greens to fig trees, can grow on your kitchen sill. *Organic Crops in Pots* (CICO Books, 2009) by Deborah Schneebeli-Morrell, offers 30 home-gardening projects, all of which can be planted in containers you already have on hand: colanders, recycled cans, hanging baskets and even barrels. $25. *cicobooks.com*.

WHO'S COMPOSTING?

Use *findacomposter.com* to locate a facility in your area.

TROMPE L'OEILE

A double-walled, dishwasher-safe porcelain cup, "I am Not A Paper Cup" has a silicone top, and lets you keep your on-the-go Joe habit without adding paper waste—sounds like a keeper. $20; *momastore.org*. ◆

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Second Life

Turn salvage finds into unique and useful bathroom decor

WRITTEN BY LINDSAY DAMAST

TOO OFTEN, BATHROOMS are designed to be purely functional, with a focus on space optimization. But with a sharp eye for second-hand buys, you can add style, character and perhaps a dash of whimsy to your washroom. Bring in pieces from unexpected sources to create an element of surprise—like this old, oversize schoolhouse sink and rubber bike tires used as mirror frames. The trough sink maximizes a short wall and gives two or even three people plenty of room to wash—but with no built-in vanity, the room retains an open feel, and leaves the walls flexible for inventive storage options. The tires, combined with steel shelves and bars for

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PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW FRENCH

stashing goods, give this bath a funky yet homey aesthetic. Salvage yards are a natural place to find vintage sinks and tubs; just be sure they're free of major cracks or holes. With an old industrial fixture, you're getting a well-made product crafted in extra-large dimensions—that means family-friendly. ◆

TIP SHEET

In their book, *Restoration Home* (Ryland Peters & Small, 2007), Mark and Sally Bailey offer up some great repurposing tips for the bath:

WHERE TO LOOK Scour spots like yard sales, country auctions, thrift shops and antiques markets. A number of Websites like *clawfootsupply.com*, *salvageone.com* and *vintageplumbing.com* sell reclaimed bathroom fixtures, or new reproductions.

WHAT TO FIX Small chips can be touched up with model enamel, while thoroughly worn-out fixtures can be stripped and refinished by a professional for a greater cost. If an otherwise serviceable clawfoot tub is missing one or two feet, don't be afraid to replace them with wooden or concrete blocks.

WHAT TO AVOID Buyer beware with salvaged plumbing products like faucets or hot-water radiators—they may have frozen in a reclamation yard, causing the pipes to crack and become unusable.

HOW TO DECORATE In a damp environment, look for items made from materials that can handle moisture, such as plastic, rubber and glass. Be careful with raw metal, which may rust.

KITCHEN KITSCH Vintage creamers, platters, carafes and glasses work well as vessels for stashing little odds and ends attractively.

FINISHING TOUCHES Interesting hardware elements, like knobs, hooks or old doorstops, can be mounted on a wooden plank, then attached to the wall for hanging towels and robes.

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Spot Clean

Freshen up the laundry room with these neat storage solutions

WRITTEN BY MEREDITH PEREZ-PENHOLLOW

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tidy tips

Interior design maestro and author Terence Conran knows a thing or two about streamlining a room. His newest book, *Storage: Get Organized* (Octopus Publishing Group, 2009), offers lots of ideas on reducing clutter. Here, he shares a few:

› DESIGNATE AN AREA If space allows, create a dedicated space for doing laundry—it can also become a home for other bulky cleaning items such as vacuum cleaners, mops and supplies.

› BOX IT IN Built-in wall units allow you to close the doors on equipment and supplies, creating a unified look if your laundry area is in a multi-use space.

› CLIMB THE WALLS Go for a stacking washer and dryer if floor space is limited. Utilize walls by hanging racks, wire baskets or hooks for holding ironing boards and detergents.

1
LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD
Authentics 2 Hands 2 Laundry Basket. $50. *allmodern.com.*

2
ON THE LINE
Clothes Pegs. $20. 800-944-2233; *dwr.com.*

3
CROSSED WIRES
Collapsible Basket. $70. 800-527-9447; *modahome.com.*

4
DIVIDE AND CONQUER
Hamper. $629. *vipp.com.*

5
FILING SYSTEM
Dransfield & Ross Laundry Totes. $98 each. *horchow.com.*

6
HANG UPS
Hanger Organizer. $30. 800-786-7315; *containerstore.com.*

7
IN A PINCH
Clothespin Hook. $38. 877-244-2770; *chiasso.com.* ◆

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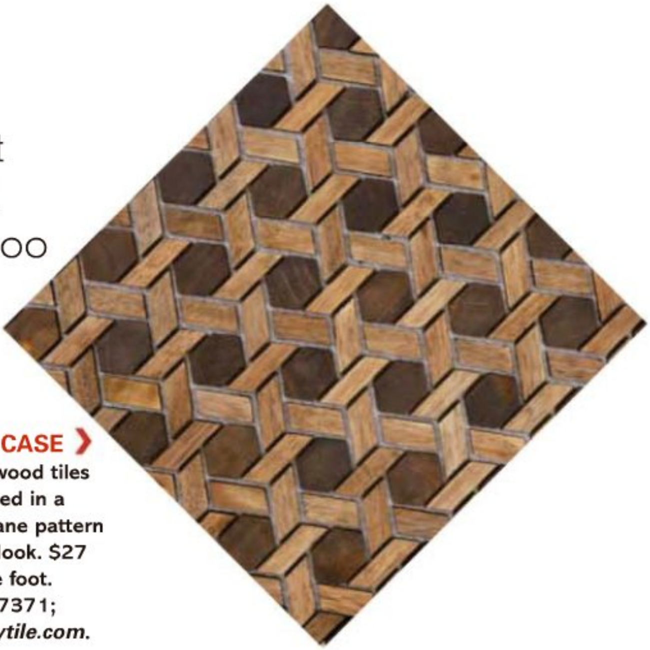
Naturally Inclined

Branch out with wood and bamboo effects

WRITTEN BY CARLA JORDAN



BASKET CASE
Harmony wood tiles are arranged in a timeless cane pattern for a luxe look. $27 per square foot. 888-260-7371; *anchorbaytile.com.*

RUSH HOUR
Bamboo stalks etched on marble create an exotic linear pattern. $48 per square foot. *antiquestone.com.*

MULTI GRAIN
Neowood porcelain tiles have all the texture of wood planks with none of the splinters. 9×3½-inch tile, $55 each. *keope.com.*

REED ONLY
The perfect accents, these cast bronze Bamboo liners are made from recycled metal. 8×⅝-inch tile, $50 each. 207-342-2597; *metaphorbronze.com.*

GREAT IMPOSTER
Looks like the real deal, but this Bamboo tile is actually easy-care ceramic. $15 per square foot. 800-680-8453; *imaginetile.com.*

INTO THE WOOD
Bring the outdoors in. Fortis Arbor wood tiles are made from reclaimed bamboo, rosewood and teak (shown). $36 per square foot. *fluxstudios.com.*

MADE IN THE SHADE
Line a wall with Vaccari's porcelain interpretation of matchstick bamboo in Sushi Black. $11 per square foot. 212-505-0009; *nemotile.com.* ◆

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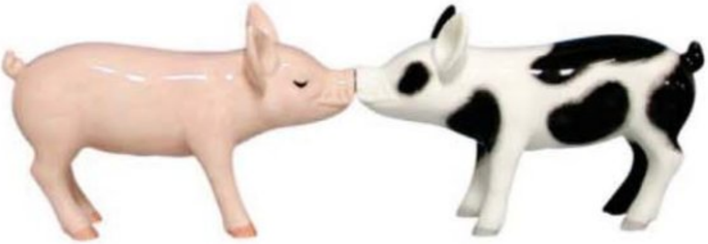
Cottage Kitchen

Natural materials and vintage-inspired accessories create a casual charm

WRITTEN BY GINEVRA PYLANT



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1
SWEET SEASONING
Magnetic Kissing Pigs salt and pepper shakers bring a dash of farmhouse kitsch to the table. $9. 888-888-8750; *westlandgiftware.com.*

2
WHISTLE BLOWER
Let off some steam with the Zani Serafino Genesis copper kettle. $345. 866-755-9079; *conranusa.com.*

3
HERBAL REMEDY
Spice up a window with Rosemary Topiaries. Set of three live plants, $39. 800-940-1170; *smithandhawken.com.*

4
DEEP DISH
The scalloped rim and raised trim of the Emma Footed Fruit Bowl give it an heirloom look without the wait. $38. 888-779-5176; *potterybarn.com.*

5
PEG LEGS
Display an eclectic collection of kitchen utensils in this Wood Egg Rack. $36. 800-320-9757; *wisteria.com.*

6
BOTANICAL PRINTS
Drawings of flora are burned into these mini–maple bread boards. About 10×10 inches. $14 each. 800-451-6118; *jkadams.com.*

7
STIR CRAZY
A tried and true classic, this Maple Short Spoon serves up a mean side of mashed potatoes. $15. 800-446-9240; *williamsburgmarketplace.com.* ◆

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Practical Can Also Be Luxurious!

- Runtal Towel Radiators are both towel warmers and room heaters.
- They are available in hydronic and electric versions in an array of styles and finishes.
- Runtal saves energy by allowing homeowners to have a toasty bathroom without raising the temperature in the entire house. Electric models offer four-season zoned comfort.
- Live Green; Live with Style; Live with Runtal in Your Home.

runtal RADIATORS Warmth by Design

Control your energy costs and at the same time enjoy the luxury of warm towels!
Call today **1-800-526-2621** or online **www.runtalnorthamerica.com**.

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Finding Storage

WRITTEN BY SUZANNE MORRISSEY

KITCHEN

1 **LOOK UP** Cabinets that don't reach the ceiling leave a bank of unused space ideal for baskets or other containers that can be used to conceal seasonal dishes or holiday table linens.

2 **TUCK IN** The alcove around a stove or alongside a pantry area is the perfect place to add a slim stow-away for skinny items such as spice jars and extracts.

3 **GET A CLEAR VIEW** Outfit a pass-through or window into an adjacent room with shelving and glass-fronted doors for a handsome see-through storage spot for sparkling stemware.

4 **TAKE SIDES** The end of a cabinet becomes a site for displaying plates, platters, and cookbooks by building out a few inches of space with narrow ledges and quarter-round molding.

5 **GO FOR A SPIN** Steal back lost storage in the far-away corners of cabinets by using a lazy Susan.

6 **SNAP TO IT** Line the inside of a pantry door with sheet metal, then add magnetic holders to corral smaller items, recipes and shopping lists. Try those colorful magnetic containers made for school lockers.

7 **PATROL THE BORDER** Installing shelves along the perimeter of a room, a foot or two below the ceiling, provides a perch for large display items, seldom used platters or serving bowls—even audio equipment.

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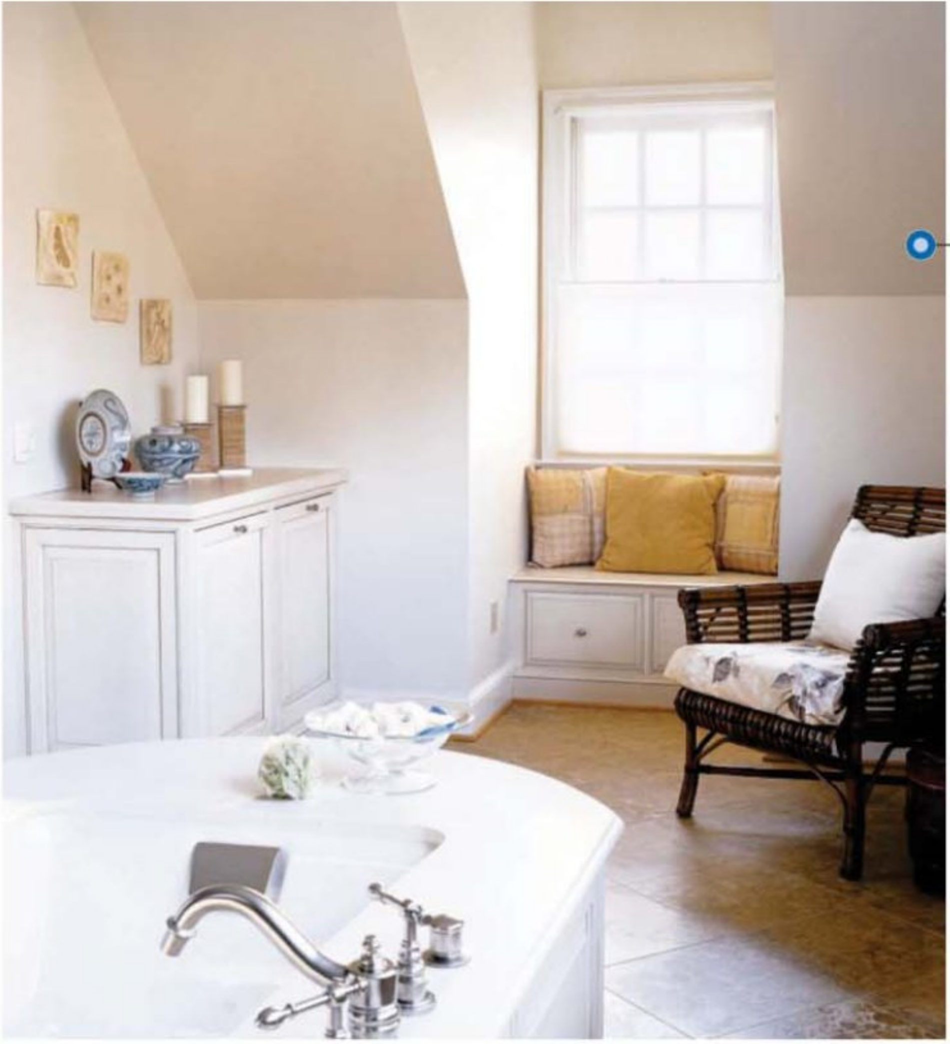

5 **TAKE A SEAT** Whether built-in or freestanding, a storage bench in the nook under a dormer window can hold plenty of backup supplies and a stack of extra towels.

BATH

1 **OPEN DOORS** A hanging shoe organizer creates a nifty spot behind a bathroom or closet door for kids' tub toys, extra bottles of shampoo and other wash time necessities.

2 **THINK LUXE** Adding a dressing stool in a master bath isn't just a touch of luxury, it's a great storage trick when you choose an ottoman-style seat with hidden storage inside.

3 **FIND YOUR NICHE** The space between wall studs is a smart place to add a tiled nook that can hold cleanser bottles, a soap dish and other bath-time essentials.

4 **SLIP AND SLIDE** Stackable drawer organizers can double the usable space in a deep drawer, making way for plenty of makeup and hair accessories. Look for styles that have sliding mechanisms on the top organizer trays.

6 **HANG IT UP** Add storage space inside the door of a medicine cabinet with a series of small adhesive hooks. Just be sure the door will still close completely after you hang sink-side doo-dads inside.

7 **SKIRT THE ISSUE** Add a fabric skirt to a pedestal-style sink and tuck away cleaning supplies.

8 **LOWER THE BAR** A row of easy-to-hang hooks makes room for more towels than a classic bar. Great-looking hooks add style as well as up the tidiness factor.

9 **SHELVE IT** A tall closet of shallow shelves can keep linens handy, and can be added to even a small bath. ◆

PHOTOGRAPHS: OPPOSITE, DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON; THIS PAGE ABOVE, GRIDLEY+GRAVES; BELOW, BETH SINGER

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User Friendly

Thoughtful details warm a sleek space

WRITTEN BY RACHEL YOUNG

Some kitchens are good-looking, and some seem made for real cooking. This clean-lined contemporary kitchen is both. Natural wood cabinets and floors and shiny stone counters are pretty and practical. The smart galley-style layout is compact, but still has room for plenty of storage and amenities. A gas cooktop is positioned in the center of the island, perfect for hungry spectators.

1

NEW WAVE

Over-the-range microwaves are handy, but shifting this busy appliance to a built-in nook just outside the main action both conserves counter space and also makes it convenient for a second cook.

2

WONDER DOWN UNDER

A narrow glass shelf under wall cabinets is just the right size for workhorse dishes and mugs. And because the shelf is clear glass, it doesn't compete visually with the beautiful green-tile backsplash.

3

TWIN FALLS

Many kitchens include a bar-size sink. Why not go one step further and install two full-size basins? Their placement here has a pleasing symmetry and makes sense for both prep (near the ovens) and cleanup (next to the dishwasher).

4

ISLAND STYLE

Adding storage at one end is a simple way to make an island or peninsula more functional. Here, translucent glass doors mitigate the bulky feeling of a large island while still hiding what's inside.

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PHOTOGRAPH: GRIDLEY + GRAVES

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PHOTOGRAPH: BOB BRAZELL

At Ease

A laid-back retreat doesn't skimp on style

It's no small trick to create a space that's both comfortable and impeccably elegant, but this bathroom in mahogany and white fits the bill. Every inch is home to something useful or visually interesting, including beadboard on the ceiling that has the quality of an M.C. Escher drawing. Still, the space feels calm and expansive. Ample room between the basins helps, as does a large window by the tub that lets in loads of sunlight. The only thing left to do is draw a hot bath, and relax.

1

GOOD THINGS IN THREES

Imagine this bathroom with just two mirrors, and it's somehow less lovely. A trio of mirrors reflects natural light from the window above the bathtub, the only window in the room, and also tweaks the symmetry of the double basins.

2

AROUND THE CORNER

A bank of shelves finishes off the vanity like the period at the end of a sentence. These clever cabinets open from two sides, so all the contents are easy to reach.

3

SHELVE IT

Stacked on a shelf, towels are within arms' reach. An open shelf is much airier than a traditional console with closed cabinets, and a mixed set of solid towels add welcome color and keep everything from looking too matchy-matchy.

4

PANEL DISCUSSION

The pleasing parallel lines of beadboard give the bathtub a built-in, vintage look and echo the ceiling. Even the step into the deep tub is made prettier with paneling. ◆

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Small Appliances

Lighten your load with these handy helpers

WRITTEN BY CARLA JORDAN

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1

TOP OF THE POPS

Make every night feel like movie night. The Professional Popcorn Maker yields up to eight cups of popped corn, then keeps it warm with a heat lamp. $100. 800-726-6247; *waringproducts.com.*

2

TINY BUT MIGHTY

The palm-size Frisper Vacuum Sealer helps keep food fresh longer by sucking all the air out of its reusable quart- and gallon-size plastic storage bags. $69, including five bags in each size. 800-481-7978; *oliso.com*

3

OPEN SESAME

Simply press down on the handle and, like magic, the Lids Off Jar Opener Deluxe loosens the top of virtually any size jar. $50. 800-544-6986; *blackanddecker appliances.com.*

4

SPICE CADET

Add fresh flavor to your recipes. The Spice & Nut Grinder has a blade designed to handle delicate spices and hard nuts equally well. $40. 800-726-0190; *cuisinart.com.*

5

KEEP YOUR COOL

Mix up a batch of frozen beverages, then keep them frosty for up to eight hours. The Thermal Blender comes with both a conventional plastic pitcher and a 48-ounce portable thermos that fits on the blender. $40. 800-851-8900; *hamiltonbeach.com.*

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6
IN THE POUR HOUSE

Serve up pub-perfect pints at home. The BeerTender's electronic cooling system chills a Heineken mini-DraughtKeg to the ideal serving temp; its internal carbonator keeps beer fresh for up to 30 days. $250, 800-526-4377; *krups.com.*

7
MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES

A simple twist converts the four-in-one Combi Mixer Stick from a hand blender to a whisk, chopper or cappuccino frother. $60. 888-521-8326; *kalorik.com.*

8
CULTURE CLUB

Now you can please everyone. The Donvier Electronic Yogurt Maker produces up to eight different flavors of yogurt—simultaneously. $50. *cuisiprousa.com.*

9
TOAST MASTER

For each of nine menu functions on this toaster-convection oven combo, the Smart Oven's Element IQ variable temperature feature suggests the ideal time and temp, then auto adjusts so food is evenly cooked. $250. 877-812-6235; *williams-sonoma.com*

10
WATER HEATER

Brew the perfect cup of tea with the fully automated Gourmet Tea Maker. It features a range of temperature and timer settings for all varieties of tea. $300. 877-832-8262; *teavana.com.*

11
FOOD FIGHTER

Its heavyweight adjustable-height cast-aluminum plates and internal drip tray make the Removable Plate Grill a contender; separate time and temperature controls, along with room to grill six pork chops, make it a champion. $150. 800-809-7267; *calphalon.com.* ◆

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Family-Friendly

Stools at the island are perfect for a quick bite. Chairs at a table gather the clan for dinner or let kids spread out homework.

PHOTOGRAPH: KEN GUTMAKER

WHETHER IT'S to grab an after-school snack, prepare dinner or simply touch base, everyone in the family passes through the kitchen, leaving little question that it is, indeed, the hub of the home. But how do you create a space that comfortably accommodates all of these activities, yet still leaves plenty of room to cook, clean and do all of those daily tasks it was originally intended to handle? The answer, according to Mark Karas, a Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer (CMKBD) with Adams Kitchens in Stoneham, Massachusetts, can be summed up in two words: careful planning. Here's how:

SIZE UP YOUR SPACE. The most family-friendly kitchens have a place for kids to work on homework, craft projects or just play without getting in Mom or Dad's way. How much space this requires depends on several factors: the age of your children, the number of children and others using the room on a daily basis, and the activities that take place. "A family with preschoolers has very different needs than one that has teenagers," says Lynda Wilhelmus, CMKBD, with Lensing Home Consultants Center in Evansville, Indiana. "Younger children most likely need a play space while teens need a computer." The bottom line is that there are no hard-and-fast rules for the amount of space that should be devoted to these various activities. Both Karas and Wilhelmus recommended starting with a pad and pencil, noting how you really use your current space. "If your children don't do their homework in the kitchen, there's really no reason to allocate space to that function," says Wilhelmus. That said, a homework station could be an oversize dining table with electrical outlets nearby for powering laptops, or it could be a complete desk that matches your kitchen cabinetry set off in its own corner, says Carolyn Cheetham, CMKBD, with Design Works by Cheetham in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. Likewise, she says, "A play space could be as simple as a toy-filled drawer just above the toe kick, or it could be a corner cabinet fitted with shelves for craft supplies, books and playthings."

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Kitchens

WRITTEN BY JOHN LOECKE

GET IN THE ZONE. Once you know how your family plans to use the space, think about how these activities—a seating area for watching television, a craft corner for the kids, plus preparing and serving food—will work together in the space, and how individual areas or zones should interact. For example, cooking and food-prep areas are sacred space. "The cook or cooks should be able to move from refrigerator to stove to sink without having to step over toys or move piles of paper out of the way," Cheetham says. According to Wilhelmus, the easiest way to make this happen is to separate the cooking area from the rest of the room with an island or peninsula.

When planning a desk or homework area, make sure there is plenty of surface for spreading out books and papers. And don't ignore the wires, says Cheetham. The last thing you want is a cord stretching across the room. To remedy the situation, Cheetham makes certain desks or tables are equipped with outlets as well as hiding places for wires. "Channeling out a table leg so cords can run through it is a good solution," she says.

A message center is crucial in a family hub. It could be as simple as hanging a chalkboard near the door, but most families need a way to handle all of the school papers, notices and mail that tend to pile up on counters. Wilhelmus suggests installing a cabinet fitted with a plate rack and designating each section to a different family member. Place a corkboard below for important reminders and notes. For a streamlined look, most cabinet companies offer a variety of shelving and custom organizing options that will let you include cubbies and shelves. You can even hide the corkboard on the inside of a cabinet door.

If your kids like to cook, design an area that's sized so they can help. According to Karas, this could be a lowered section of counter (say 30 inches high instead of the traditional 36-inch height) or a low shelf that pulls out from an island. Make sure there's a drawer or cabinet nearby to hold their supplies. Even if the kids aren't interested in cooking, a snack space complete with undercounter refrigerator, bar sink and microwave (if they're old enough), so they can grab a snack or even breakfast is a smart addition, says Cheetham. Locate it away from the main work triangle and they can help themselves without interrupting the cook.

THINK ABOUT SAFETY. The more people using the kitchen, the more opportunities there are for something

MUST-HAVES

An induction cooktop heats only the contents of the pan, leaving the cooking surface safe and cool to the touch.

800 Series 36-inch cooktop, from $2,900. *boschappliances.com.*

These 15-inch-wide refrigerated drawers are perfect for milk jugs and soda cans.

Signature Series, $3,000. *perlick.com.*

→

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A peninsula steers traffic flow around the busy cooking area and creates a kid-friendly eating zone.

MUST-HAVE

The dry-erase doors of the Jot refrigerator turn it into a family message center.

$549. 800-843-0304; *amana.com.*

to go wrong. However, says Karas, avoiding potential mishaps is easier than you may think.

If you have a toddler, view the room from their perspective. Sit on the floor of your present kitchen and survey the scene, says Wilhelmus. You'll probably see cabinets and drawers begging to be explored, sharp corners and lots of tools and objects that might look interesting to a curious child. At a minimum, you want to make sure things like cleaning supplies, knives and small appliances are out of reach or in cabinets that lock, and that any unused electrical outlets are covered.

Where appliances are concerned, look for models equipped with child lockout settings, get a stove guard that creates a barrier in front of burners on a cooktop, or perhaps explore a new technology, like induction cooking. "With induction, no heat is generated unless there's a pot on the burner. It's the pan that gets hot, then, not the cooking surface, so when the pan comes off, the burner is cool," says Karas.

If you're renovating, pay particular attention to the materials you select. For example, says Karas, honed natural stone and smooth tile floors, especially those that have a high sheen, can become very slippery when wet. Instead, he suggests using something with a bit more texture, like vinyl or cork. An added bonus: "Both materials are resilient," says Karas, so they're easier on the feet and more forgiving should someone slip and fall. "And always round the corners on countertops," says Cheetham.

Also consider counter heights. Standard height is 36 inches, which may be too tall for a child to reach

PHOTOGRAPH: KATE ROTH

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MUST-HAVE

The Kidzone cabinet is specially designed to organize toys, games and art supplies.

From $400 depending on door style and finish. 800-527-5903; *armstrong.com*.

without a stool. To avoid creating an environment where kids have to climb to reach everything, Wilhelmus suggests working in a seating area centered on a table rather than a counter. "Whether you use chairs or a built-in bench, the height of the seat will be more comfortable for them to reach." For areas where a stool may be necessary, such as a sink, Cheetham suggests using one that's built into the cabinetry so there are no issues with tipping. "Most cabinet manufacturers offer stools that fold back down into toekicks," she says. "They don't tip over and they also disappear when you don't need them."

KEEP IT CLEAN. Finally, think about upkeep. Stainless steel may have a nice, modern look, but it's a chore to maintain, especially when you have lots of little hands touching it. Karas doesn't recommend shiny silver appliances for families with small kids. "Black or faux stainless is a much better choice," he says. Similarly, Cheetham and Wilhelmus avoid using natural stones like granite or marble in highly trafficked family spaces because they stain too easily. Alternatively, both recommend counters made of solid surface or quartz. And cabinet finishes, they say, should not be too shiny. "A cabinet with a glossy sheen is definitely scrubbable, but it will show everything—you'll be scrubbing it often," says Wilhelmus. Instead, go for a semi-gloss, which has a more muted look. "After all, you want to spend time enjoying your kitchen with your family, not constantly tidying it up," she says. ◆

Locating a microwave below the counter at the end of an island or peninsula makes it easy for children to grab a snack for themselves.

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MCNAMARA

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Earth Angel

Natural wood and stone surfaces are elevated by loads of light from on high

WRITTEN BY RACHEL YOUNG

STYLE NOTES

SUN SENSE If you have tall ceilings, consider placing windows above wall cabinets. They'll channel sunlight without sacrificing wall space that could be better used for easier-to-reach storage.

PAVE THE WAY A floor tiled in a pattern of large and small squares builds visual interest. It's a smart way to approximate the chic, organic look of irregular slate paving stones with uniform-size tiles.

OPEN AND SHUT CASE Open shelves and glass-doored cabinets are on trend, but what if your kitchen gear isn't ready for that much transparency? A mix of closed and open storage provides display space for things that are pretty and neatly arranged, as well as drawers and solid doors for everything else.

SHELVE IT A small shelf above a sink is just the right size for a few favorite decorative items. It's also perfect for hiding an undercabinet light to shine on this important work zone.

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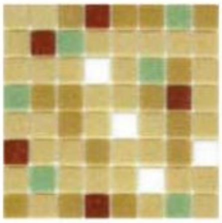
PHOTOGRAPH: AMERICAN WOODMARK

KEY INGREDIENTS

COOL STOOL
Spin bar stool, $109. 800-967-6696; *crateandbarrel.com.*



MASTER MIX
Brio Blend glass mosaic tile in Cherry Pie, $6 per 1.15-square-foot sheet. 877-439-9734; *modwalls.com.*

BUTTER DISH
Butter-yellow cereal bowl, $32 for four. 800-243-0852; *surlatable.com.*

HIGH ARCH
Sonora two-handle high-rise faucet with spray in chrome, $481. *danze.com.* →

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Mind Your Manor

A stately kitchen gets a kick from robin's-egg-blue walls and some playful cabinetry choices

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PHOTOGRAPH: LUBE CABINETRY

KEY INGREDIENTS

PLACE FOR POTS
Walnut ceiling pot rack, $160. 800-967-6696; *crateandbarrel*.com.

FLOWER POWER
Gardenia topiary, $50. 800-356-9377; *1800flowers*.com.

VICTORIAN VALUE
ShowHouse Waterhill faucet in chrome, $440. 800-289-6636; *moen*.com.

FEELING BLUE
Accolade interior latex paint, in Capri Grotto, from $40 per gallon. 800-289-7728. *prattandlambert*.com.

STYLE NOTES

GET MOVING Using freestanding furniture pieces rather than a fixed island greatly increases your options. For a party, this island could sit against the wall for serving snacks or drinks.

PALETTE PICKS Some colors show up often on kitchen walls (yellow) and others less so (bright blue or green). Choosing an unexpected color that suits your style and space is an inexpensive way to add instant personality.

DOOR PRIZE Take advantage of the many choices for cabinet doors. Mixing in one or two doors in a different style but in the same finish can add texture and give your kitchen a more custom look.

WHAT'S YOUR HANDLE? Using horizontal pulls on tall cabinets as well as drawers creates a unified look. In this kitchen, all handles, including those on the island and the armoire-style piece in the alcove, get the same treatment. ◆

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Refrigerators

WRITTEN BY CAROLYN WEBER

HOT PICK
Miele's Independence collection allows you to install fridge and freezer columns separately, and even specify different widths. Available in stainless, paneled or fully integrated styles, units are equipped with a high-performance dual-compressor system and intuitive MasterCool touch controls. In 18-, 30-, and 36-inch widths. From about $5,000. *miele.com.*

YOU MAY NOT THINK ABOUT your refrigerator much. It's just a big box that keeps food fresh, drinks cold and provides a place to show off the kids' artwork, right? Not anymore. Today's refrigeration offerings are equipped with fabulous conveniences to make life easier and save energy—and exterior enhancements that create a major design element in the kitchen.

Size and capacity are the first things to consider when fridge shopping. Standard models have 18 to 26 cubic feet of storage space, and come in widths of 24, 36, 48 and 60 inches. "The capacity of your refrigerator should be based on the number of people in your family," says Monica Teague, senior manager, mass brands for Amana, Whirlpool and Maytag. As a general rule, calculate eight cubic feet of fresh-food storage for every two people in the household, plus an added cubic foot for each additional person. For freezer storage, the recommendation is four cubic feet for every two people plus two extra cubic feet for each additional person. So based on this equation, this means that a family of four would need combined refrigerator/freezer storage of 24 cubic feet.

Standard refrigerators extend 33 inches from the wall, which is about six inches past most cabinetry. Built-in models are flush with the cabinets and countertops for a sleek, well-tailored look. Taller and wider than other mod-

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els, they come in stainless steel or can be fitted with panels to match the cabinetry. Starting at around $5,000, these are usually reserved for custom kitchens. However, there is another option: "counter-depth" refrigerators. At 26¾ inches deep, these appliances fit flush with the cabinetry, providing a built-in look at half the cost.

BEHIND THE DOORS

Once you've determined size and capacity, think about the configuration. There are three basic styles—the classic single-door with a freezer on top, single-door with a bottom-mount freezer, and side-by-side freezer and refrigerator sections. There's also the French-door, also known as armoire style, with side-by-side doors on top and a freezer drawer on the bottom. "It's all about lifestyle," says Teague, "The type of model you buy depends on your everyday habits and how your entertain." A French-door style is great in narrow spaces, since it doesn't require as much clearance for the doors to open. An armoire fridge is best if you tend to store wide pizza boxes or deli platters. If you use frozen food less frequently, go with the bottom-mount storage so the foods used daily are at eye level. If you have a bad back, make sure the drawer has a tilt-out feature, which makes it easier to take inventory.

There are a few newer options. To really keep things organized, LG and GE Profile have new armoire styles with double lower freezer drawers. Haier America makes a convertible bottom drawer that can be either a refrigerator or a freezer depending on need. Refrigerator drawers, installed under countertops, are an option for small rooms or as supplemental food and beverage storage. But cool has a cost; these handy little space savers have big price tags, with units starting around $1,800 and topping out over $3,000. The ultimate in flexibility is separate fridge and freezer units. The Miele Independence series and Thermador's Freedom Collection of modular fresh food and freezer columns come in a variety of widths and can be located wherever you want for a customized kitchen layout.

INNER BEAUTY

What really sets the various brands of appliances apart are the interior features. Water and ice in the door isn't new (most are now available with replaceable filters, so you can lose that big plastic pitcher), but several companies have improved upon this convenience. Maytag's new side-by-side with the Fill-n-Chill dispenser saves a step as it doles out ice and water at the same time, and the new "right size" ice cubes are small enough to fit into refillable water bottles. In addition to dispensing cubed and crushed ice, the Kenmore Elite side-by-side has a third option—shaved ice. "It produces eight ounces in 20 seconds," says Larry Costello, director of PR and market communications for Sears Holdings. "Use it for Italian ice, smoothies or on a platter under seafood." →

HOT PICK

This side-by-side provides 21.7 cubic feet of storage space, and features spill-proof glass shelves that keep liquid from dripping all over the fridge. Cold water and ice in the door is clean thanks to the PUR ultimate water filtration system; an interior indicator light lets you know when to change the filter. $1,060 ($1,320 for stainless). *kenmore.com.*

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New Energy Star–qualified models use

HOT PICK

The GE Profile PFSS6SMX is a 25.8-cubic-foot armoir-style refrigerator that has an external ice and water dispenser with a seven-inch LCD screen above it. On the other door is a convenient hatch that provides easy access to snack foods and beverages without opening the whole door. Inside, the ClimateKeeper food preservation system keeps meats and veggies fresh. Available in stainless steel. $3,300. *geappliances.com*.

Everybody wants to be more organized, and the refrigerator is a good place to start. Look for bright (and energy-saving) LED lights so you can actually see what's in there, and choose pull out shelves to get to that way-back food easily. Rimmed shelves contain spills, and glass is easy to maintain. Dedicated soda can storage racks are a popular option, and families that keep gallons of milk on hand should look for plenty of in-door storage. Bosch's flexible EasyGlide door bins are fixed on rails so they can glide up and down to accommodate taller bottles.

If you spend the extra money for organic meat and produce, you'll want to make sure it lasts and is ready when you need it. Manufacturers have come to the rescue with a plethora of temperature- and humidity-controlled compartments. The BioFresh system by Liebherr keeps special drawers at a cool, but not freezing, 32 to 35°F to extend storage time. Bosch's SuperCool/SuperFreeze functions quickly chill warm foods introduced to the environment by temporarily dropping the temperature to the coolest setting. Jenn-Air's new integrated built-in collection has four bin-temperature settings—deli, produce, meat and quick chill—for precise control. The quick chill, which lowers the temp to below liquid freezing point for one hour, is perfect for cooling a bottle of wine before dinner.

Germs and odors can also be a problem in the fridge. The new Sub-Zero built-in line has an antimicrobial filtration system that clears the air of bacteria and microscopic contaminants every 20 minutes. The system helps eliminate ethylene gas (emitted by some vegetables) that causes other food to spoil faster. Some Kenmore models offer plastic crisper drawers infused with the antimicrobial Microban to inhibit bacteria, and stains and odors. "It won't wear off or wash away," Costello says.

If you're looking for more than food storage from your fridge, there are some features and gadgets to consider. Need a refrigerator alarm system to notify you of a power failure? Electrolux has it. It

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40 percent less energy than those sold in 2001.

also lets you know when the door has been ajar for more than five minutes and if the interior temperature rises above 56°F for more than 20 minutes. GE Profile's latest offering has an integrated media center with an LCD screen where you can upload family photographs with a standard memory card. It's also equipped with recipe substitutions and nutritional information like calories and fat content of packaged foods so families can make smart choices.

COOL RUNNING

Saving energy is an excellent reason to replace that old refrigerator. Look for the Energy Star label, which means qualified models use 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards, and 40 percent less than models sold in 2001. The latest in Whirlpool's Eco Kitchen line, the Resource Saver side-by-side refrigerator exceeds Energy Star standards by 10 percent and uses the same amount of power as it takes to run a 60-watt lightbulb nonstop for a year. The Eco Mode on most Bosch refrigerators saves energy and reduces lighting on the LED display; the Vacation Mode saves energy when the fridge is not in use for a long time.

LOOKS COUNT

Although the form of the refrigerator isn't as important as the function, the styles are evolving and even acquiring a bit of personality. LED-lit control panels have a cool, high-tech look. Smooth, straight handles lend architectural character, while textured, gently curved ergonomic handles are comfortable to grip. White is still the most popular color, but stainless steel has become the fourth neutral (along with black and bisque, of course). Stainless is prone to showing fingerprints, so opt for a brushed finish that will be much lower maintenance. Whirlpool's Satina has the look of stainless steel, but will hold those magnets, pictures and shopping lists. Some of the newer offerings are Oil Rubbed Bronze from Jenn-Air, which complements a rustic or Provençal interior, and Dacor's modern glass panels that come in gray, blue, green and black. Early this year, Amana posted a range of fun and funky options ranging from a rich metallic paisley (inspired by designer Thom Filicia) to op-art dots on their Website for consumer voting, with plans to produce the winning styles. ◆

HOT PICK

Extra insulation and improved compressor technology help the Resource Saver side-by-side from Whirlpool exceed Energy Star standards by 10 percent. It features an In-Door-Plus ice system, and has enough freezer space for eight frozen pizzas. It's equipped with a Fast Cool button that quickly drops the refrigerator or freezer temperature to accommodate new food additions such as hot leftovers. $2,100. *whirlpool.com*.

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Lighter, Brighter Kitchens

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI

BEFORE: The outdated finishes from a remodel in the 1970s made the kitchen seem dark and tired.
AFTER: The new kitchen has a clean, easy style. Bigger windows plus shiny stainless steel brighten the space.

1 CRISP AND CLEAN

As a professional photographer of residential interiors, Karen Melvin has seen her share of beautiful kitchens. Coming home to her own dark, 120-square-foot kitchen was starting to wear her down. "It's hard to go out and see fabulous houses when you have to come home to your 1974 cabinets hanging on the wall." Karen, who shares her home in Minneapolis with husband Philip Prowse, had some design ideas but turned to kitchen designer Carol Sadowsky, CKD, of The Woodshop of Avon in Edina, Minnesota, for help creating a brighter space with a clean, crisp look. A key change was replacing the small casement windows with larger double-hung styles that maximize the kitchen's eastern exposure. Taking a cue from a kitchen she had photographed, Karen lined her windowsills with the same granite she used for her counters. Its reddish-gold colors work perfectly with the kitchen's custom Shaker-style maple cabinets with a red-toned opaque stain. Now Karen can come home from a shoot and feel happy about her kitchen.

IN THE DETAILS

APPLIANCES The kitchen's panel-front refrigerator blends in with the cabinets, but the stainless steel dishwasher, built-in microwave, range hood, gas cooktop and electric oven add shine and reflect light.

CUSTOM STORAGE A combination of open shelving and cabinets with frosted and clear glass doors on a formerly empty wall across from the sink gives Karen and Philip a much-needed place to store cookbooks, wine and glassware.

DETACHED TABLE Instead of a center island that would impede traffic flow, Karen opted for a freestanding maple table (with a handy storage drawer) that sits under the new storage cabinets. "It gives them options, like moving the table to the center of the room when they want to put out a buffet for guests," says Sadowsky.

PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS PAGE, KAREN MELVIN; OPPOSITE, JOHN HORNER

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2 OUTDOOR CONNECTION

Andie Insoft wanted a brighter space for preparing meals for her family. Andie, who shares her Newton, Massachusetts, 1950 ranch-style home with husband Rob and their two children, also loves to entertain. She hired architectural designer Kert Heinecke, of the design/build firm Feinmann, Inc., in nearby Lexington, to create a light-filled kitchen that was more inviting for guests. "We wanted to update the finishes, add more natural light, create a better connection with the rest of the house and give them flexibility," he says. Since the family keeps a Kosher kitchen, he also needed to incorporate space for two sets of dishes, pots, pans and utensils. Flipping the location of the kitchen and dining room gave the kitchen easy access to the garage through a revamped mudroom. The rear wall was removed and rebuilt as an arcade of windows that flood the kitchen with light and allow the family to enjoy views of their deck and yard. A new coffered ceiling adds volume and gives definition. The couple decided on semicustom maple cabinets with satin nickel hardware for their new open kitchen. To bring in lots of her favorite color, Andie chose the granite counters that sparkle with blue iridescence and a white tile backsplash with random cobalt blue and turquoise accent tiles. "The other kitchen didn't reflect me," she says, "but this one does. The light and color add a sereneness to our house."

IN THE DETAILS

ISLAND The two-tier island offers storage and prep space, houses the sink and dishwasher, and gives the family a spot for casual meals. "The seating also keeps company out of the way of the cook," says Heinecke. Glass-front cabinets on the dining room side provide display storage; open shelves on the other end keep cookbooks handy.

LIGHTING Besides the large windows that offer lots of natural light, Heinecke added recessed ceiling fixtures, blue glass pendants over the island, undercabinet lights for work areas and cove lighting in the coffered ceiling for warmth. "We wanted to light the space evenly to avoid cold and hot spots," he says.

WALL COLOR The pale blue paint with white trim used for the walls below the windows and for the coffered ceiling complement the blue accents throughout the kitchen. "Using Andie's love for blue is a great way to add more personal warmth to the kitchen. It brings the client's personal stamp to the project," says Heinecke.

→

BEFORE: The old, 200-square-foot kitchen featured white laminate cabinets with oak trim, laminate counters and a worn linoleum floor. **AFTER:** Now 225-square-feet, the kitchen has all-new appliances, including a large-capacity refrigerator and double wall ovens.

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BEFORE: Even with cheery yellow walls and white cabinets, the old space was just not inviting. It felt isolated, contained limited storage and had a tricky layout.
AFTER: Almost doubled in size, the new kitchen is bright and open, with a better layout that makes the most of every inch.

3 OPEN INVITATION

With only a small window over the sink to bring in daylight, homeowners Matt and Kelley Leeds of Millersville, Maryland, felt their 132-square-foot kitchen was too dark. The couple, who have two school-age children, wanted to create a brighter and more family-friendly space with better flow. They hired designers Serena Lehn, CKD, and Mark T. White, CKD, of Kitchen Encounters in Annapolis to help them. Replacing the small window with a large picture window flanked by two casements dramatically improved the amount of light coming in to the kitchen, but that was just the beginning. "We opened it up to the adjacent dining area and a family room addition," says White. Removing walls brought in more natural light from a screened porch off the addition, but also helped improve flow. The couple also chose a softer, more subtle yellow for the walls. "With all the light we have now, we wanted a color that wouldn't overpower the other finishes in the room," says Matt. The new-and-improved 241-square-foot kitchen has become the most popular space in their home. "It's the center point for all of us," says Matt.

IN THE DETAILS

BACKSPLASH Tuscan-style tiles with a natural variation and finish add a nice textural element to the room. White mixed in a few emerald-green accent tiles to create the design in the niche behind the corner range. The recessed space creates a storage shelf for cooking oils and spices.

CABINETS Traditional cream-toned cabinets with raised panel doors, oil-rubbed bronze hardware and crown molding contribute to the kitchen's light, bright feel. Removing the old bulkhead allowed the designers to bring the cabinets all the way to the ceiling. "We've had friends walk in and say they thought we raised the ceiling," says Matt.

LAYOUT Orienting the new six-burner dual-fuel range in a corner and moving the new refrigerator to the adjacent wall improved the work triangle. The cook no longer has to walk across the room to move items from sink to stove or refrigerator. ◆

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARK T. WHITE

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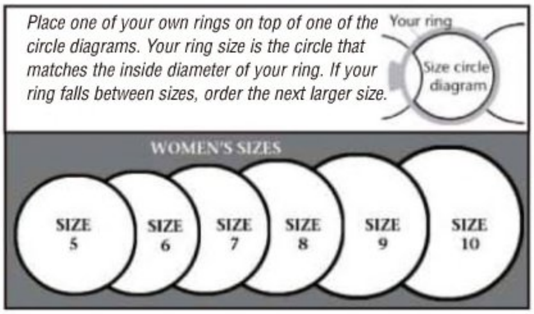

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PHOTOGRAPH: JIM YOCHUM STYLING: GISELA ROSE

Inviting

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RELOCATING KEY ELEMENTS IN THIS KITCHEN MAXIMIZES ITS EFFICIENCY

GAINED in the SHUFFLE

WRITTEN BY MERVYN KAUFMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM YOCHUM
STYLED BY GISELA ROSE

While the decor is refreshingly lighthearted, this kitchen is indisputably a hard-working space, outfitted with pro-caliber appliances, durable surfaces and a well-designed lighting scheme.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

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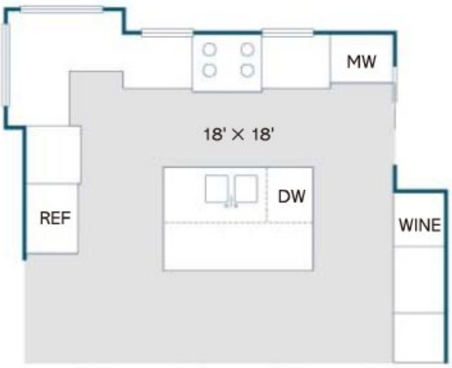
Arts and Crafts style influenced the look of this new architect-designed house near Michigan's Little Traverse Bay. "Loosely traditional" is how kitchen designer Dawn Whyte, of Designs by Dawn in nearby Petoskey, described it when she joined the project. By then, the kitchen's nearly 18×18-foot space was already allocated and laid out. Working with homeowners Kim and Stefan Scholl, she adapted the plan, eliminating a window from a wall with otherwise usable cabinet space, and moving the sink from a confining angle defined by corner windows to a more central and spacious location on the island.

"As lovely as it is to look outside, I didn't want my sink in front of those windows," Kim says. Why? "Because the sink is the most-used spot in a kitchen, I felt I needed to face in, not



In the remodeled kitchen, the sink has been relocated front and center onto the island. Previously, it had been installed awkwardly in an outside corner of the room.

DESIGN DETAILS

IN SINK **The double-bowl basin is made of stainless steel and features "zero-radius" corners—a crisp, 90-degree design. Its solid silver color poses a restful contrast to the speckled granite countertop.**

GRAPHIC DESIGNING **Open shelving calls for confidence in color and silhouette in the choice of items to be displayed.**

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

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Notching out the corner of the kitchen means it's not such a stretch to reach the windows. The depth of the counter at that point is 18 inches, compared to the standard 24-inch design.

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ROUND AND ROUND Bold and playful, the legs of the island continue the kitchen's emphasis on line and contour. Stacked in a top-heavy order, they contribute to the room's cheery mood.

TACTILE TILE Who says wall tiles must be one dimensional? Here, a simple course of white field tile is capped with liners that sport a high-relief hobnail motif in an exuberant design touch.

COFFEE UNDER COVER A brace of small appliances splayed on the counter would be out of place in such an artistic space. Stowing them together behind closed doors is both an efficient and aesthetic storage solution.

GALLEY GALLERY This kitchen is nothing if not a personal style statement. To wit, a novel idea for a backsplash accent: An ornately carved frame, whitewashed to highlight its form, houses a family portrait.

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The quirkiness of the kitchen extends to the smallest details: Cut-glass door and drawer pulls add an unexpected note of glamour to the cabinets.

have my back to the kitchen." In place of the corner sink, she requested a tile-topped ledge for displaying plants, family pictures and small collectibles. "I had the window corner bumped out a foot," designer Whyte recalls. "I made the counter in that area only 18 inches deep, not the standard 24, so the space would be easier to reach." To compensate for the daylight lost by filling in a window, Whyte placed two transoms high on the wall behind the pro-style range and exhaust hood.

At the helm of a busy household that includes her husband and two young children, Kim requested plenty of closed storage, plus open shelving—"so everyday dishes and glassware would always be right there, where I could grab them," she explains. Shelves under the corner window are for platters, large bowls and cookbooks. To obscure them without compromising their accessibility, Kim hung fabric. "Each panel is on a spring-loaded rod," she points out. "When I go looking for a platter or bowl, I just push the fabric aside; if I ever want a different look, I can easily hang something else there."

Having a desk area was another major request. "I wanted a little center where I could sit and open my mail, pay bills or use my laptop," she says. To give it distinction, she ordered the turned legs, inspired by images she found in a book of antique furniture. "I favored a simple, classic look throughout the kitchen," she adds. "And though I wanted to be able to change my fabric as well as the barely blue wall color at some point, I was looking for longevity. I wanted to keep the really permanent things basic." ◆

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MaKING a LIVING SPaCE

A KITCHEN SATISFIES THE NEEDS OF BOTH A FAMILY AND A PRO COOK

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GOULD BESSLER
STYLED BY INGRID LEESS

A trio of wood species graces this kitchen: A veneer of quarter-sawn maple enrobes the cabinets' main surfaces. Toekicks and posts are black walnut, and the island's legs are cherry. The subtle differences in color and grain fend off tonal chaos.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

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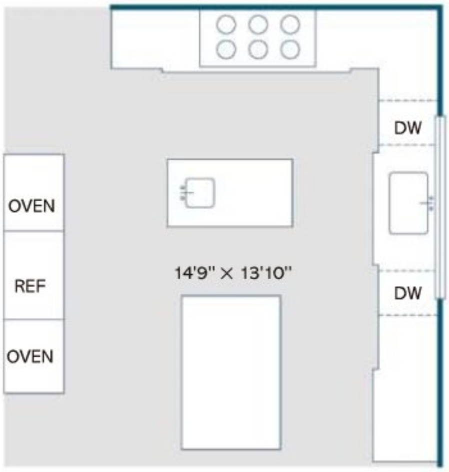
Debra Singer makes her living cooking for others, so when she and her husband, builder Robert Singer, decided to redesign the kitchen in their decade-old center-hall colonial, they made sure that it catered perfectly to their personal and professional lives.

The Peapack, New Jersey–based couple created a contemporary space where they can not only serve meals to their three sons—13-year-old twins Ryan and Elliot and 12-year-old Jonah—and host parties for their family and friends, but where Debra can prepare delicacies on a large scale for her catering clients. "We entertain a lot," says Debra. "We have everything from casual gumbo get-togethers to elegant cocktail affairs. I recently had a party for 150 people."

Although the space is large (it measures 412 square feet), kitchen and bath designer Ian Cairl, owner of Pluckemin, New Jersey–based Platinum Designs, says it was a challenge to come up with an attractive layout that would



LEFT: Two islands in the kitchen render the room more flexible in terms of usage. Orienting the long side of the work island to the cooktop makes it more serviceable to the chef; exposing the short end of the other island to the adjoining room eases passage between the spaces.

DESIGN DETAILS

A PALETTE WITH POLISH Pairing a deep blue granite counter with honey-toned wood cabinets gives the kitchen a strong yet muted contrast, avoiding the stark extremes of a black-and-white color scheme.

TOUCH DOWN! A stainless steel pullout is a heat-proof landing spot for piping hot dishes. Located on an island, its no-nonsense handle can be quickly and easily grabbed by an oven-mitted hand.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

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Of the room's dual islands, the one closer to the cooktop is set up as a prep area with knife storage, a chopping-block top and a veggie sink. The other island is scaled and finished as a dining spot.

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Befitting a kitchen for a professional caterer, the extra-deep sink is equipped with a powerful rinsing faucet. A pair of drawer-style dishwashers is a clean-up convenience, handling loads large and small.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

While the functions of this wall may run hot and cold, its appearance is an even-tempered composition of cabinets and integrated appliances.

accommodate a family eat-in component plus the cooktop, two sinks, two wall ovens, refrigerator, three freezer drawers, two dishwashers and the storage space that Debra needed for her business. "It is a long and lean space," he says. "I approached it from an artistic standpoint by making furniturelike cabinetry that almost looks like sculpture."

The pantry was moved to the hallway, and in addition to cooking, eating and food-prep zones, there is a dessert/butler area that comes in handy for staging large events. Two islands, which can be connected by a floating retractable stainless steel panel, were added. "I put my stand mixers on the panel," says Debra, adding that the islands double as tables. "And the surface is practical because it wipes up easily."

Monopoint halogen fixtures on the Venetian plaster ceiling allow the illumination to shift. "This way, the food can be highlighted," says designer Theresa Scelfo, whose eponymous company is based in Morristown, New Jersey. "They make the room look sexy."

Debra favors fresh fare and chose eco-friendly features that meshed with the family's healthy lifestyle. The maple cabinets, for example, are made of reconstituted veneers, the stone floor is travertine, the backsplash is glass that resembles bamboo and the countertops are Volga blue granite. "I wanted natural and organic materials," she says.

When the weather is good and the party is big, the work space expands: There is a second kitchen, which includes a pizza oven, in the backyard. Robert loves to act as the prep chef, and the kids, too, are right at home in the kitchen. "I love living in my kitchen," Debra says. "The room has breathed new life into the house." ◆

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COUNTRY DANCE MIX

RUSTIC AND REFINED MERGE IN A FRESH, FUNCTIONAL KITCHEN

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF MCNAMARA
STYLED BY INGRID LEESS

The dark walnut island is a workhorse not only from the standpoint of everyday kitchen duties but also from a design perspective. Its dark color contrasts with the white cabinets and backsplashes, providing a visual anchor. The finish also acts as a transition from the cabinets to the Brazilian-walnut floor.

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A hefty refrigerator is easily accessible to everyone. The cook can remove fresh ingredients and place them on the island opposite, and hungry passersby can grab a snack or a beverage without invading the primary work area. Thanks to custom panels, the appliance blends in with the cabinets.

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SOAKING UP EXTRA SPACE A brief gap in the base cabinets becomes an open, pull-out towel bar. Those particularly sensitive to clutter will appreciate having towels stashed away but still easy to reach.

LOOSENING A TIGHT SPOT
A narrow, mesh-paneled door makes this constricted corner cabinet a fine display area. The drawer below provides bonus storage space.

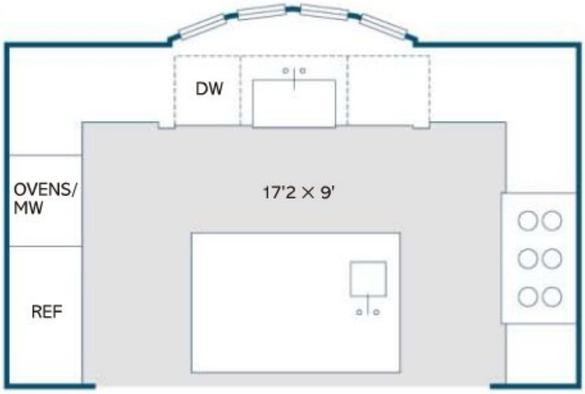
FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

Connecticut and country style go together like eggs and bacon, but when Katie and David Barker added a kitchen wing to their multilevel 1950s New England shingle-style home in Darien, they mixed in some city sophistication.

The addition, which includes an eat-in kitchen, desk area, mudroom and butler's pantry, is bathed in a classy palette of white, black and espresso, while a host of metal finishes provide additional layers of refinement. The white New England–style cabinets are adorned with sleek polished-nickel hardware. Above the stainless steel stove is a brushed stainless hood with a wide rim and straps of polished chrome. And the door panels of the corner cabinets feature a diamond-pattern double-wire mesh made of polished chrome.

"I call it New England with Park Avenue chill," says kitchen designer Christine Donner, whose eponymous design firm is based in nearby New Canaan. "It has just the right amount of bling."

Other key features play off the traditional with high style. The farmhouse sink, for instance, has a fluted apron. The backsplash, covered with mini-subway tiles, has a herringbone pattern, and the vintage-style crystal pendant light fixtures are trimmed in polished nickel.



ABOVE: The practical benefits of the island become even more apparent when looking at the floor plan. The island acts as a bridge—uniting the refrigerator, range and primary sink—and as a barrier to keep traffic from wandering into the cooking area.

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The 375-square-foot kitchen's focal point is the dark walnut island, which echoes the Brazilian walnut floor. Surrounding the island is a powerful perimeter of cooking, storage and food-prep areas. "The marble countertop—Calacatta gold—has a border that is a double thickness that gives it prominence," Donner says. "And the sink in it that faces the range makes it particularly convenient for cooking and filling pots."

A round dining table, where the Barkers eat meals with their toddler, Gracie, softens the geometry of the space. "It's much more sociable than a rectangular one," Katie says. "And it makes the space feel more open."

The kitchen works as beautifully as it looks. Katie is particularly fond of the high-speed oven, which Donner considers a must-have item for every makeover. "It only takes 20 minutes to cook a raw chicken to crispy," Katie says.

Whether the Barkers are feeding breakfast to Gracie, hosting backyard barbecues or entertaining connoisseurs from their gourmet cooking and wine clubs, their new kitchen is at the center of all the action. "We always serve hors d'oeuvres and wine in the kitchen," Katie says. "I can watch the trees in the backyard change with the seasons. And Gracie can play there and in the lower family area, which opens off the kitchen." ◆

ABOVE: An understated desk area was crafted from the same cabinets used to outfit the kitchen proper.

RIGHT: Tucked into the desk area is a charging station for cell phones and digital music players—a great touch for this high-traffic space.

ABOVE: Like the desk, the adjacent dining area blends in beautifully with the kitchen. It carries on the kitchen's mixture of warm wood and simple colors with dashes of modern elegance such as the pendant fixture over the table.

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The seamless integration of laid-back and modern is amply exhibited here. Sharp, bright metal hardware jazzes up no-nonsense cabinet doors, and a fluted front adds character to the farmhouse sink. A bowed window ushers in the sun.

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At 6-foot-5, the owner of this kitchen is able to reach items stored in the high cabinets. The added storage near the ceiling goes a long way toward keeping the clutter of cooking tools in check.

A TALL ORDER

CEILING-HEIGHT CABINETS KEEP THIS COOK'S KITCHEN NEAT AND TIDY

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN GUTMAKER
STYLED BY LINDA POPE

Good cooks like tons of tools, and Andrew Wittman is no exception. Because the kitchen in his San Francisco condo was big on everything but space, he wanted to make sure that too many pots and pans didn't spoil the look.

Working with certified kitchen designer Tineke Triggs of her San Francisco–based Artistic Designs for Living, in short order, the tall-order cook—he's 6-foot-5—had a new kitchen where everything from the microwave to the refrigerator had its own special out-of-the-way place. "I measured all the cabinets ahead of time to make sure my appliances would fit," Wittman says. "I wanted the cabinets

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to go up to the ceiling, but I didn't want the room to look like a fortress."

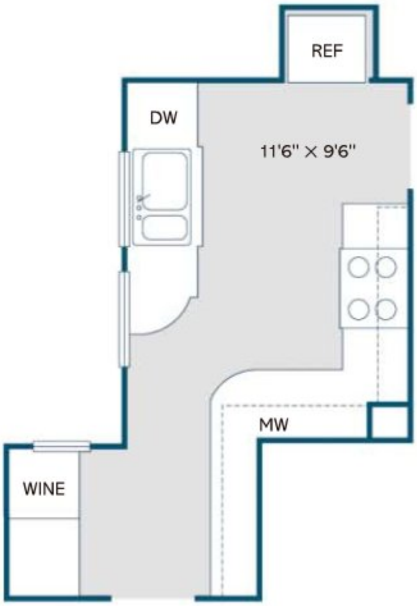
The biggest change involved the footprint. The old kitchen included an entry to the open laundry room, whose washer and dryer were visible. Triggs walled up that passage and created a pocket to tuck the refrigerator into. "This allowed me to create a perfect triangle linking the refrigerator, sink and stove," she says.

In the hall, a door was added to provide access to the new laundry area; another door leads to the back stairway. The wall between the old butler's pantry and kitchen was removed, opening up the space to accommodate a new pantry as well as a glass-shelved bistro-style bar, complete with a wine refrigerator, adjacent to the dining room.

For the upper cabinets, Triggs created an interesting pattern of squares and rectangles that have the same flavor as the Edwardian flat's Arts and Crafts style. She designed lower cabinets that look like furniture, complete with fashionable feet that seem to lift them off the oak floor. Their colors—pale gray and dark blue-gray—match the background and veining of the Carrara marble countertops and the mini-brick marble backsplash. "As the curved cabinet doors wrap around the corners of the room, they free up more floor area," Triggs says. "They also offer better interior storage space."

Countertop appliances, including the microwave, are behind closed doors, while some of the smaller cooking accoutrements are displayed decoratively. Metal hanging rails on the backsplash, for instance, turn the area into a culinary-themed gallery of cooking oils, spices and utensils; a cookbook holder keeps recipes at the ready. Above the stove, a warming shelf is deep enough to hold a variety of items.

"I entertain a lot, and I love to cook," Wittman says. "I experiment as much as possible, but you would never know it because everything is stored away when I'm done."



FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

ABOVE: The refrigerator is set almost flush into the wall, seriously mitigating its bulk factor. Despite being separate from the countertops, it is still quite convenient to both the prep area and the range.

RIGHT: Walling off the entrance to the old laundry room allowed designer Tineke Triggs to create the pocket for the refrigerator. The updated floor plan creates breathing room in the small footprint, while the ceiling-height cabinets ensure storage is not compromised.

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Counters flanking the main traffic route have rounded corners. This treatment provides at least three benefits: It makes the room less boxy, adds floor space, and eliminates sharp corners—all important in a confined space.

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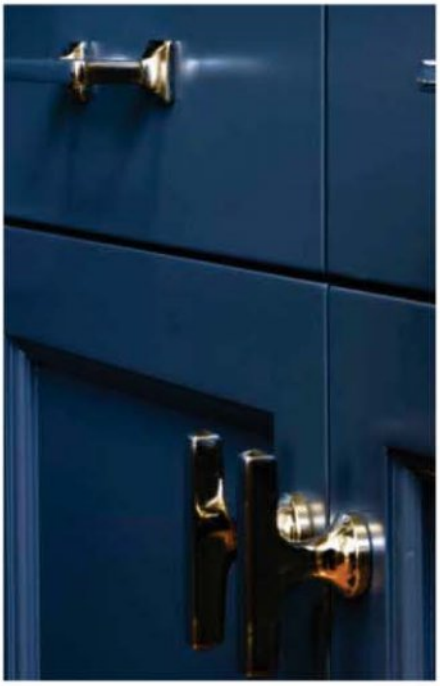
IN THIS CORNER Curved-front cabinets provide clear and easy access to whatever's on their shelves because of their relatively shallow depth.

RAIL ROW A hanging rail accommodates a range of accessories, from spoons and ladles to a shelf for staples and a nifty holder that keeps cookbooks open hands-free. A pull-up door conceals the microwave.

"I wanted cabinets up to the ceiling. I didn't want it to look like a fortress."

—ANDREW WITTMAN



TOUCHES OF CLASS Sophisticated hardware on neat cabinets reflect the homeowner's aesthetic taste and individuality. The quality of the workmanship is clear.

BOWLED OVER A deep, single-bowl sink with a high-spout faucet handles large pots and cookie sheets with ease. Here again, clean lines and stately style impart classic elegance. ◆

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Removing a wall opened up space for a new butler's pantry complete with wine refrigerator. Clear glass shelves radiate a friendly bistro vibe while preventing the niche from feeling cramped.

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With lots of windows and pale cabinets, this corner of the kitchen is bright and vibrant. It's an inviting transition point between the cooking area and the dining space, both of which feature decidedly darker finishes.

SPACE WITH GRACE

AN EXPANDED LAYOUT TURNS A KITCHEN INTO A FAMILY ROOM

Outdated and too small—the two main design drawbacks in this Minneapolis kitchen were the same ones that many homeowners contend with. The remodeling goals, then, were to open up the space and create a cohesive layout suitable for the young family's around-the-clock activities.

The owners explained their needs and desires to Andrew Flesher, of Gunkelman Flesher, and Lars Peterssen, of Domain Architecture and Design—both in Minneapolis—and then let the pros have at it. Peterssen took the lead in space planning, then Flesher came on board to help select materials.

High on the owners' priority list was more breathing room, which had been sorely lacking in the 1920s Tudor residence. Not only did they want a larger kitchen—with room for an island where friends and family could pull up a chair or the kids could do homework—they also wanted the kitchen open to the

WRITTEN BY HEATHER J. PAPER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DONALD MACKLIN JR.
STYLED BY STACEY SCHIMKE

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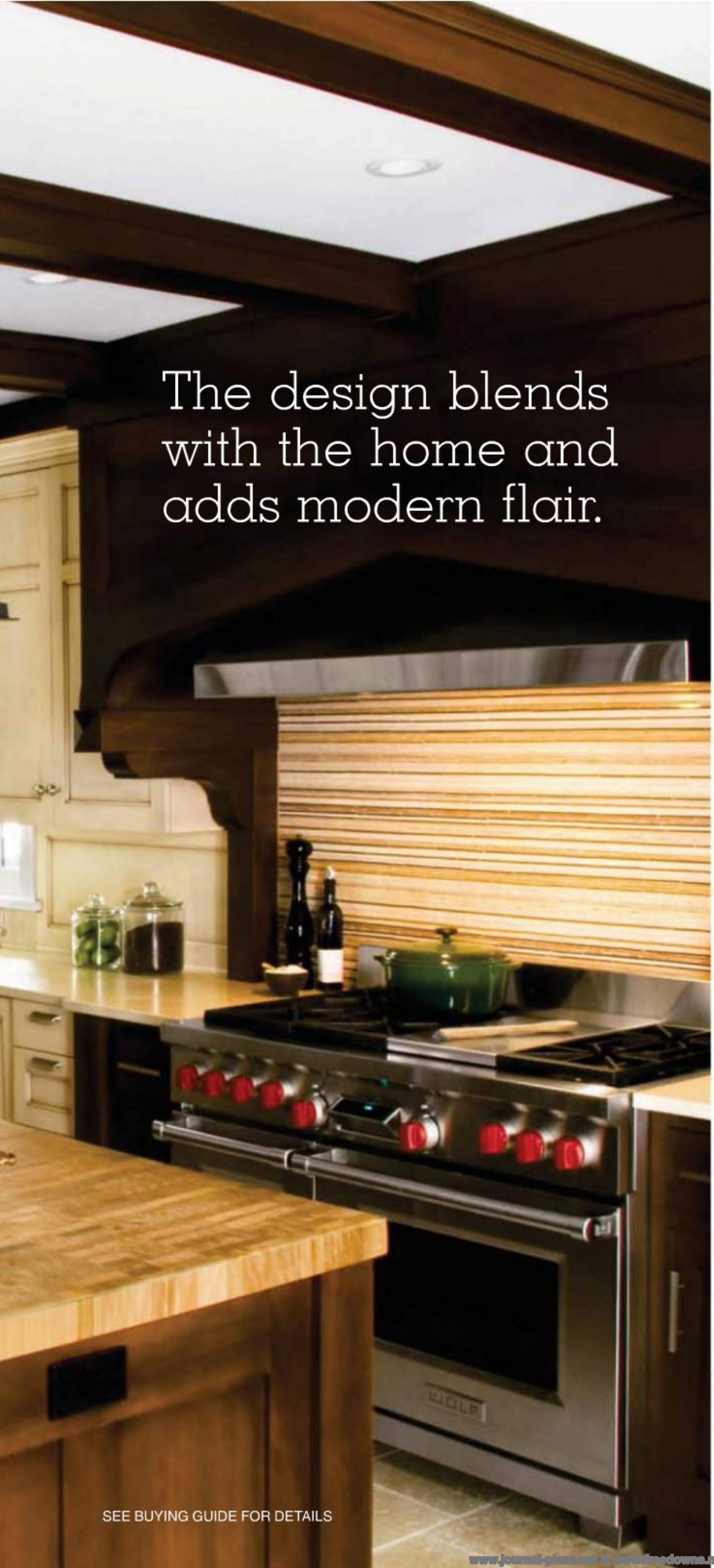
A wide spectrum of wood finishes—the creamy painted corner, the natural butcher-block island top, and the espresso-hued hearth—imbues the kitchen with a well-rounded and charming personality.

The design blends with the home and adds modern flair.



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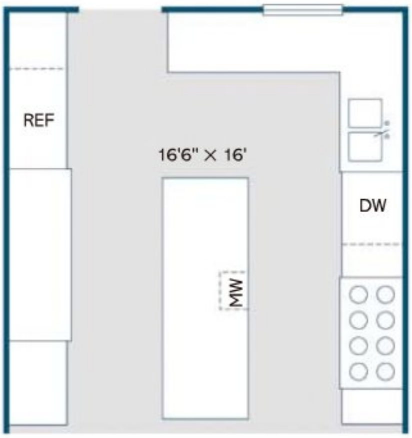

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

ABOVE: The designer bumped out the footprint of the kitchen, adding 75 square feet. This provided the breathing room the homeowners desired and let the designer produce a cohesive layout.

dining room. Peterssen managed to accomplish both, bumping out the space to add 75 square feet in the process.

The resulting design harmonizes with the home's original architecture, but at the same time, it introduces some contemporary flair. The requested island takes center stage, its butcher-block top made from old-growth birch logs dredged from the St. Lawrence Seaway. To one side of the island, floor-to-ceiling cabinets sport antiqued mirror panels, with Gothic arches acknowledging the home's Tudor traits. On the opposite wall, marble tile creates a backsplash akin to a work of modern art. The tile was spotted on display at a local bath decor showroom. "We walked into Waterworks and saw

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FLIP TO COOK The control panel for the oven flips into view when needed. When not in use, it retracts back into the range, providing a clean, flush look and preventing stray cooking spatters from landing on the oven controls.

ABOVE: For a 24-hour kitchen, a large range can be a blessing. This unit sports six burners and two ovens. A powerful vent hood keeps odors and vapors in check.

OPPOSITE: Merging country, contemporary and gothic styles, the desk area encapsulates the spunky match-and-mix design strategy behind the kitchen.

this on the floor," the owner says, "and I immediately started thinking where in the house I could use it." The backsplash turned out to be the perfect placement, providing subtle but smashing color amid otherwise neutral hues. Threads of blue and yellow weave easily among various shades of beige, brown and black.

In fact, the light-to-dark variation of the backsplash is a common theme in the room. The light butcher-block top of the island pairs beautifully with the mahogany base. The dark hood over the range, inspired by an architectural element in the foyer, is the perfect foil for much-lighter quartz countertops that resemble limestone. Visually, though, the cabinets are the most striking study in contrasts; the dark cabinets reach back to the home's roots, while their cream-colored counterparts provide visual balance.

From a practical standpoint, the designers definitely solved the dilemmas of this family's old kitchen. The fact that it's all so tasteful makes the cure that much more satisfying. ◆

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WHITE MAKES RIGHT

WITH JUDICIOUS ACCENTS, A SIMPLE COLOR PALETTE ANCHORS A SERENE RETREAT

The old design acronym K.I.S.S.—albeit in the kinder, gentler form Keep It Simple, Shaker—captures the essence of this master bath designed for pair of empty-nesters relocating from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to southern Maine. The couple, who have never previously shared a sink or shower, requested a simple yet luxurious space, in contrast to their former home: a circa-1880 Victorian whose plumbing hadn't been updated since the 1920s. "We each had our own private bathroom, but they clearly needed an upgrade," says the husband.

Enter Portland, Maine–based architect Rob Whitten, who frequently jump-starts his design process with a visit to the clients' home. "I like to observe how the homeowners actually live, to see what works for them and what doesn't," he says. In this case, the clients handed him a book referencing Shaker style, citing a preference

ABOVE: A grab bag of adornments punctuates the clean, basic lines of the cabinets and countertops in this bath. Light sconces, plumbing hardware and cabinet knobs combine to forge a homey, inviting look.

RIGHT: A clawfoot tub adds to the vintage vibe, but more importantly, it's in front of a large window, providing the bather with a sweet view of the yard in addition to a refreshing, relaxing soak.

WRITTEN BY THERESA MCTAMMANY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROB KAROSIS
STYLED BY ROSEALEE MARTINEZ

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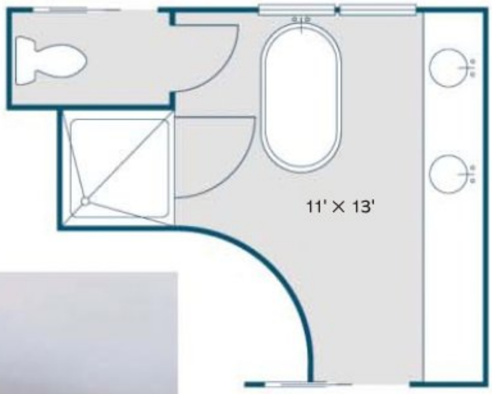
"The Shakers would have approved of everything we've done." —ROB WHITTEN



FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

ABOVE: The fairly generous space accommodates separate bathing fixtures, a double vanity and a convenient toilet compartment.

LEFT: A second entrance from a desk area goes directly into the toilet compartment, then into the bathing and grooming space. The shower includes both a fixed showerhea d on the wall and a height-adjustable hand spray on a sliding rod. A bump-in holds shampoos and such.

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RIGHT: Between the main entrance and the vanity area is a copious swath of cabinets and drawers for storing linens, toiletries and all the little items that make the bath a more useful, relaxing space.

for the striking clean-lined, function-specific cabinetry. "That was the starting point," says Whitten. "After that, they gave us free rein."

A blend of classic and contemporary, the custom Shaker-style cabinetry sets an inviting tone. A wall of space-saving built-ins are fabricated from budget-friendly MDF (medium-density fiberboard) and include tall pull-outs, deep drawers, and open cubbies designed to complement the curved-nickel gap-paneled wall on the opposite side of the room. The expansive Corian-clad vanity with his-and-hers recessed sinks comes equally equipped. "The design literally brings the space to the user," says Whitten of the customized storage configuration. "There's no need to get on your hands and knees to find anything."

Despite the all-white palette, the 11×13-foot amenity-laden space is soothing, not sterile. Center stage belongs to the handsome clawfoot soaking tub, which provides a peaceful place to read or relax. "My wife insisted on a tub," says the husband, admitting he's more of a shower guy. Also included are a separate water closet and a shower enclosure outfitted with both adjustable hand-held and overhead-mounted sprays. Glossy white tiles brighten the room seamlessly, making the 170-square-foot room feel larger than it actually is.

As the sun moves with the seasons, the ambience of the room subtly shifts; the natural light often gets a boost from the honey-stained birch-plank floor. The warmth is more than visual, thanks to an underfloor radiant heating system.

The owners are content with the outcome, which they view as a happy mix of modern comforts and pared-down style. Remarks Whitten, "My guess is the Shakers would have approved of everything we've done." ◆

DESIGN DETAILS

FILLED WITH CHARACTER Paired with the clawfoot tub, the old-fashioned tub filler with hand spray creates a visual centerpiece that, despite its assertive vintage styling, mixes well with modern decor.

A USEFUL NOOK The small toilet area is mainly utilitarian, including little more than the toilet itself. The extra touches, however, make a difference. A simple robe hook makes this a cozy, out-of-the-way anteroom for tub and shower users.

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More from Less

TURNING AN INEFFICIENT CHOPPED-UP BATH INTO A CHIC, COMFY OASIS

Everything about their Victorian row house was utterly elegant—everything, that is, but the outdated 1970s renovation of the third-floor master bath and dressing room. The owners—Nick, who works for a contracting firm, and Henry, who is in the financial industry—hired Canadian interior designer Candice Olson to groom the rooms for their new role as a luxurious, masculine spa that would have an atmosphere reminiscent of a private gentlemen's club. She combined all the too-little-to-be-useful chambers, removed the ditchlike sunken tub and a window, and transformed the nearly 420-square-foot space into a dressing room and bathroom linked by a pair of frosted-glass pocket doors.

Although the layout has been rearranged, the history of the house is re-emphasized by the wall that crowns the tub: It gently slopes as it traces the angles of the rafters. The new master bath features a transparent walk-in shower equipped with a rain-style showerhead, four adjustable body jets and a handheld sprayer that Nick and Henry say comes in handy for quick cleanups. It also boasts a platform tub, a 17-inch waterproof flat-screen TV, a double vanity and an exercise area large enough to accommodate an elliptical machine. The adjoining dressing room is outfitted with a modular storage system and includes a space-saving stacked washer/dryer that is artfully concealed behind double cabinet doors.

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRANDON BARRE

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Designer Candice Olson didn't stop with knocking down interior walls to create this now-serene space; she replaced a north-facing window with a pair of sliding glass doors.

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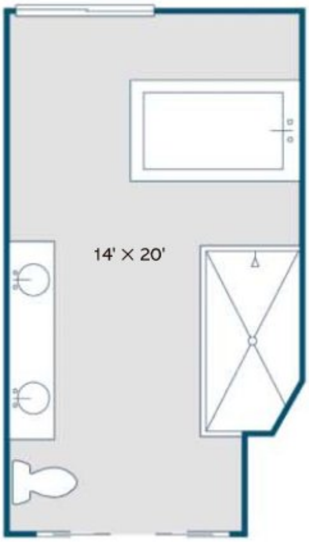
An overhead rain-style showerhead, a column of four adjustable body jets and a hand sprayer combine for a spalike experience in the shower.

ABOVE: Two finishes give the vessel sinks visual punch: The outside wall is brushed steel, while the polished interior gleams.

RIGHT: The slanted wall follows the pitch of the house's third-floor rafters. This neatly eases the viewing angle for bathers watching the television.



FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

ABOVE: While the newly-spacious bath enjoys all the amenities, practical concerns aren't overlooked. Large storage areas flank the tub and fill the vanity.

"Now it's a luxurious, inspiring masculine spa."

—CANDICE OLSON

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In the bath, a pair of sliding glass doors that overlook the back garden welcome the sun and give the feel of a tranquil tree-top retreat. Traditional finishes that are more at home in the boardroom than the bathroom turn the bath into a stylish yet relaxed oasis. The handsome ribbon-grained mahogany of the bookshelves, the vanity and the tub surround is the perfect counterpoint to the rectangular "mosaic rug" of ½-inch square marble tiles in white, chocolate and putty. White quartz on the floor, on the tub deck and atop the vanity gives a contemporary yet classic look.

The double vanity, which was designed to look like a Parsons table astride a dresser, is a prime example of the merging of timeless design. The crystals dangling from the silk-shaded sconces, the twinkling polished-chrome circles of the disco-style chandelier, the acrylic pulls of the vanity drawers and the stainless steel bowl sinks reflect each other and the glamour of times gone by.

Now, Olson says, the master bath/dressing suite gives the owners a place to "exercise, refresh themselves and get ready to face the day—or relax at its end." ◆

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1. **You need to stock up on groceries. You are most likely to:**
A. Hit the farmers' market. You prefer buying organic and local produce whenever possible.
B. Order online from Netgrocer.
C. Head for the supermarket and load up your cart.

2. **You've found an extra hour in the weekend to devote to yourself. That's the perfect time to:**
A. Manage your iTunes playlist.
B. Troll around on eBay for bargains on vintage Fiestaware.
C. Whip up a batch of your famous oatmeal-raisin cookies.

3. **It's Saturday night and you're flipping through the movie section in the paper. Do you:**
A. Gasp with delight when that art film from Hong Kong finally makes it to your local theater?
B. Use running times and show times to calculate the possibility of seeing *two* of the latest blockbusters—in one night?
C. Wonder what happened to movies where characters speak to each other in complete sentences and are less than handy with rifles and grenades?

4. **The time has come to blot out the world and immerse yourself in music. You're most apt to get totally lost in:**
A. The custom mix on your iPod.
B. A CD of a classic album by the Beatles or the Moody Blues.
C. An evening at the opera, preferably live.

5. **Your friends want you to choose the restaurant for your birthday dinner. You're most likely to pick:**
A. The freshest sushi joint in town.
B. Chili's.
C. Fine French cuisine.

6. **You need to write a thank-you note to a close friend. Do you:**
A. Dash off an IM from your BlackBerry?
B. Craft a collage of images personally significant to both of you into a card?
C. Trot out the calligrapher's pen and your monogrammed note cards?

7. **When it comes to sports, the athletes in your house are ready to take on all comers in:**
A. Lacrosse.
B. Football.
C. Golf.

8. **The digital photos you took of your relatives are great. How do you get copies to them?**
A. Send them a Flickr e-invite.
B. Print them out at Walgreens or Target.
C. You don't own a digital camera.

9. **Your dream vacation would be:**
A. A game-watching safari in Africa, and "camping" in luxury tree houses.
B. Two weeks in a lakeside lodge with the extended family.
C. A wine-tasting tour of the Loire Valley or Tuscany.

How to rate your bath-style profile:
Score 0 points for each A answer; 1 point for each B; and 2 points for each C.
0 to 7: You're a cool customer who wants a contemporary, Zen-like spa.
8 to 14: You'd likely prefer a transitional look—a mix of traditional and contemporary elements.
15 to 18: You're a classic and your bath is a luxurious and comfortable retreat. ◆

PHOTOGRAPH: DANZE

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Resources

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GAINED IN THE SHUFFLE
Pages 56–61:

Designer, Dawn Whyte, Designs by Dawn. ***Contractor***, J.R. Construction. ***Cabinetry***, Starmark Cabinetry. ***Butcher-block***, Michigan Maple Block. ***Island legs***, Creative Millworks. ***Backsplash***, Jeffrey Court. ***Beverage center***, GE Monogram. ***Refrigerator***, Amana. ***Refrigerator door panel***, Alanson Sheet Metal. ***Range*** and ***hood***, Thermador. ***Dishwasher***, KitchenAid. ***Sinks***, Blanco.

MAKING A LIVING SPACE
Pages 62–67:

Designer, Ian Cairl, Platinum Designs LLC. ***Interior designer***, Theresa Scelfo, Theresa Scelfo Designs. ***Contractor***, Robert Singer, Singer Properties. ***Cabinets***, Royal Cabinet Company. ***Range***, ***wall ovens*** and ***hood***, Wolf. ***Microwave***, KitchenAid. ***Refrigerator***, Sub-Zero. ***Wine refrigerator***, Viking. ***Dishwasher***, Asko. ***Dishwasher drawers***, Fisher & Paykel. ***Sink***, Franke. ***Faucet***, Dornbracht. ***Pendants***, Fili, Oggetti Luce. ***Cabinet hardware***, Hafele. ***Cabinet glass***, Architectural Glass Effects.

COUNTRY DANCE MIX
Pages 68–73:

Designer, Christine Donner Kitchen Design. ***Architect***, Jacek Bigosinski, PB Architects. ***Contractor***, Sue Kipp Construction. ***Cabinets***, Craft-Maid Custom Cabinetry. ***Warming drawer***, Dacor. ***Oven*** and ***microwave***, Miele. ***Range***, Wolf. ***Range hood***, RangeCraft. ***Refrigerator***, Sub-Zero. ***Main sink***, Whitehaus Collection. ***Island sink***, Rohl. ***Faucets***, Perrin & Rowe, Rohl. ***Dishwasher***, Asko. ***Counter surfacing***, Calacatta Gold Marble, New Canaan Marble. ***Desk countertop***, Raging River Counterworks. ***Backsplash***, Quemere International, Stepping Stone Marble & Tile. ***Island pendants***, Ann Morris Antiques (trade only). ***Breakfast table lamp*** and ***wall sconces***, Circa Lighting. ***Drawer pulls*** and ***appliance handles***, Belwith International. ***Knobs***, Restoration Hardware. ***Crystal knobs***, Cliffside Industries. ***Paint***, DK-16, Donald Kaufman Color Collection. ***Metal grille*** (on corner cabinets), Van Dyke's Restorers.

A TALL ORDER
Pages 74–79:

Designer, Tineke Triggs, Artistic Designs for Living. ***Contractor***, Hines Custom Remodeling. ***Cabinets***, JR's Woodworks Inc. ***Custom cabinet legs***, Artistic Designs for Living. ***Upper cabinet paint***, Bunny Gray; ***lower cabinet paint***, Deep Space; ***wall paint***, Sandy Hook Gray, Benjamin Moore. ***Oven***, ***range*** and ***hood***, Wolf. ***Microwave***, GE Monogram. ***Refrigerator***, Sub-Zero. ***Sink***, Blanco. ***Faucet***, Rohl. ***Dishwasher***, Bosch. ***Backsplash***, Waterworks. ***Cabinet hardware*** and ***lighting***, Urban Archaeology.

SPACE WITH GRACE
Pages 80–85:

Architects, Lars Peterssen and Gabriel Keller, Domain Architecture & Design. ***Interior designer***, Andrew Flesher, Gunkelman Flesher. ***Contractor*** and ***cabinet maker***, Gary Meichels, G.S. Meichels Construction. ***Refrigerator*** and ***wine refrigerator***, Sub-Zero. ***Range***, Wolf. ***Hood***, Vent-A-Hood. ***Sink***, Franke. ***Dishwasher***, Asko. ***Faucets***, Dornbracht. ***Cabinet hardware***, Colonial Bronze Company. ***Countertops***, Desert Limestone, CaesarStone. ***Flooring***, Travertine Noce, Fantasia Showrooms. ***Island chandelier***, Altar Hanging Light, Kevin Reilly for Holly Hunt. ***Undercabinet and recessed lighting***, Juno.

WHITE MAKES RIGHT
Pages 86–89:

Architect, Rob Whitten, Whitten Architects. ***Contractor***, Eider Investments. ***Custom cabinetry***, Sergey Fisenko Inc. ***Cabinet paint***, Benjamin Moore. ***Tub***, Sunrise Specialty. ***Tub filler***, Sign of the Crab. ***Sinks***, DuPont Corian. ***Toilet***, ***faucets***, ***showerhead and valve***, ***hand shower*** and ***slide bar***, Kohler. ***Counter surfacing***, DuPont Corian. ***Shower floor*** and ***wall tile***, Daltile. ***Frameless shower door***, Glass & Mirror Services. ***Sconces***, Pottery Barn. ***Recessed lights*** and ***shower light***, Lightolier. ***All paint***, Benjamin Moore. ***Solar roller shade***, Jessitt Gold.

MORE FROM LESS
Pages 90–94:

Wall paint, Benjamin Moore. ***Drapery fabric***, Kravet. ***Quartz counter***, Quartz Surfaces Inc. ***Floor***, ***shower***, ***tub deck*** and ***countertop***, White Zeus, Silestone by Cosentino. ***Accent tile***, Sensa by Cosentino. ***Vessel sinks***, Kohler. ***Flush-mount fixture***, Union Lighting & Furnishings. ***Cabinet knobs***, Atlas Homewares. ***Sconces***, 6752-1W by Candice Olson, AF Lighting. ***Custom glass shower enclosure***, Adanac Glass. ***Sliding shower door***, Pella. ***Hand shower, faucet***, ***showerhead***, ***tub***, ***tub faucet***, Kohler. ***Stool***, Elte. ***TV with floating remote***, Design 2 Automate. ***Nickel tables***, ***covered vases***, ***white jars***, ***tub organizer***, ***architectural prints***, ***tea light holders***, ***tulip joquiel bowls***, ***jars*** and ***dishes***, Elte. ***Clear decanter***, Union Lighting & Furnishings. ***Leather books***, HorseFeathersHome. ***Bath towels*** and ***accessories***, Bouclair. ***Hand towels***, Pottery Barn.

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